THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Government have signed a contract with the Canadian Wheat Board in June, 1992 for import of 10.05 lakh tonnes of wheat. Some balancing import of wheat became unavoidable due to factors like fall in production of foodgrains especially coarse-grains during 1991-92 as compared to the production during 1990-91 with consequent imbalance in demand-supply lower level of procurement of wheat during 1991-92 and 1992-93 marketing seasons and the consequent need for building up stocks in the Central Pool for maintaining supplies in Public Distribution System (PDS) and achieving food security.

(c) During January to June, 1992 the State Trading Corporation exported 1.25 lakh tonnes of wheat.

(d) Since January, 1992 export of wheat has been restricted to the firm contractual obligations entered into earlier by STC and MMTC.

Establishment of new sugar factories in Gujarat

1679. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Gujarat State for change of the location for establishment of a new sugar factory;

(b) if so, at which stage the proposal is laying;

(c) by when the matter is likely to be finalised;

(d) how many proposals have been received from Gujarat State for establishment of new sugar factories;

(e) what steps have been taken by Government in the matter; and

(f) by when the proposals are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 3 proposals have been received for change of location of new sugar factories in the State of Gujarat which are pending consideration. Certain information has been called for from the State Government in respect of 2 proposals on the receipt of which, these cases would be processed further. As regards the 3rd proposal, it is under consideration.

(d) to (f) As on 30-6-1992, 12 applications have been received by the Ministry of Food through the Department of Industrial Development for grant of Letters of Intent for the establishment of new sugar factories in the State of Gujarat. In view of the large pendency of unimplemented Letters of Intent/Licences already issued, proposals for new sugar factories have not yet been taken up for consideration.

Freeze on grants to central universities

1680. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 46 given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th July, 1992 and state:

(a) the reasons for freezing the grants or resorting to cut of grants to Central Universities alongwith the reasons for withdrawing the same;

(b) what are the details of the ways and means to meet this additional burden; and

(c) the plan worked out by Government for the loan based self financed education at higher level?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Central Universities are fully funded by the Central Government through the University Grants Commission (UGC). A major share of UGC's Non-Plan budget is made available to Central Universities and Delhi Colleges for their maintenance expenditure. Keeping in view the present constraint on the availability of financial resources, Government decided to maintain the level of Non-Plan expenditure of all Ministries/Departments and autonomous bodies during 1992-93 at the level of last year. This has imposed resource constraints on UGC was well as Central Universities.

The Minister of Human Resource Development held consultations with Chairman, UGC and Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities to consider measures to mitigate the financial difficulties being faced by them. On the basis of these consultations, the UGC have withdrawn the Commission's earlier orders of freezing the maintenance grants.

(b) According to the information furnished by UGC, during March-April, 1992 the Commission held a series of consultations with Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, and Finance Officers of Central Universities and Principals of Delhi Colleges to cope with the situation. The economy measures identified in these meetings included reduction of expenditure on telephones, electricity, transport, water, stationery, etc. to the extent of 20 per cent curtailment in expenditure on hospitality, travel, study leave, teaching and non-teaching posts, etc.

(c) Commercial Banks are already providing need-based finance under the "Educational Loans" Scheme.

Suggestion of UNESCO team to Taj Mahal

1681. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the world famous monument, Taj Mahal at Agra is losing its white shine;

(b) whether an expert team of UNESCO has suggested the closure of lower tomb Cenotaph Chamber if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that white marble monument had become rough and slightly coloured; if so, what are the reasons for this deterioration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The marble surface of Taj Mahal is not losing its white shine.

(b) No Sir.

(c) On account of inherent mineral impurities, present in some of the marble slabs used in the construction of Taj Mahal, one colour steaks exist which is not a recent phenomenon.

प्राथमिक शिक्षा के लिए कम आवंटन

1682. श्री राम जेठमलानी :
श्री वीरेन जे० शाह :
श्री विनोद शर्मा :

क्या मानव संसाधन विकासमंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पहली पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान शिक्षा पर खर्च की जाने वाली राशि सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 7.86 प्रतिशत